

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

With the present amendment, the specification and the abstract have been amended to correct several formal errors therein.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4, 9, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Voelker et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,877,308 (Voelker).

It is respectfully submitted that Voelker is not prior art against the subject application. Voelker has a U.S. filing date of November 15, 2002. The subject application claims priority of German application DE 102 44 250.9 filed September 24, 2002. In view of the above, it is further respectfully submitted that a certified translation, which is being filed herewith in accordance with MPEP 201.15, overcomes Voelker as a reference. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 4, 9, and 15-

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16 are allowable, together with claims 3, 5, 8 and 10-14 already indicated as being allowable.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction to be carried out by Examiner's amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

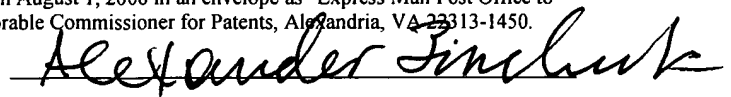
Respectfully submitted,



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This correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on August 1, 2006 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number ER 059 675 966 US addressed to the Honorable Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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